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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

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Above all Strife and Bitterness

IT is a fine thought that in the midst of this world upheaval where brutality and fear, misery and starvation, follow in the wake of the Axis invaders, the Red Cross stands forth as something above all strife and all bitterness, unassailed and unassailable

I appeal to you with all earnestness to show your gratitude for all that the Army, the Navy and the Air Force have done, and are doing, day in and day out, often without food, and without sleep, battling their way through virgin jungle, over dangerous seas, through barren desert, and through storms, so that we may be spared the horrors of invasion

Try and visualize the powers of endurance, the courage and humour which are required to get them through, and let us say to ourselves that anything we can do and any sacrifice that we can make are insignificant in comparison with what they are doing for us

H.E. LADY LINLITHGOW, in a broadcast inaugurating the All-India Red Cross Week

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British Army Week Tributes

"We have other armies all over the world waiting to show that the Eighth Army, for all its achievements, is not unique. These other armies are hoping to emulate, not only their own brothers, but the valiant Red Army as well."

—SIR JAMES GRIGG, *War Secretary, in a broadcast from London on Feb. 28.*

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"To-day we face the East. Not defensively, not with any doubt or apprehension, but aggressively, with confidence and determination."

—FIELD-MARSHAL SIR ARCHIBALD WAVELL, *in a message to Sir James Grigg.*

◆ ◆ ◆

"The troops in Persia and Iraq are now in fine fettle, eagerly awaiting the moment when they may meet the enemy."

—GENERAL SIR HENRY MAITLAND WILSON, *in a message to Sir James Grigg.*

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No easy way out for Germans

"We have never declared or desired the extermination of the German people, but in the light of the barbarous ferocity with which they are, as a deliberate act of policy, exterminating the Poles and Jews in occupied countries and deliberately wiping out those elements in subjected nations which are the spearpoint of national resistance, there can be no easy way out for the Germans."

—MR. C. R. ATTLEE, *Dominions Secretary, in a speech in Manchester on Feb. 28.*

Running Commentary

Marked Change in Jap Propaganda—Note of Realism. There has been a marked change in the nature and trend of Japanese radio propaganda recently. There is an air of realism, and there are signs of genuine apprehension at the increasing capacity of the Allied powers to smash the Japanese war machine. No longer do we hear so much the usual boasts of Japanese military strength and power. A Japanese writer, SEIICHI TANAKA, writing in the *Japan Review* in November 1942, said,

> " The building of potential strength is more fundamental than the immediate destruction of the opponent."

Similar sentiments were expressed by SIGEYOSI MATSUNAE in *The Kaizo*, another Japanese magazine. The writer points out that Britain's productive power since the Napoleonic Wars had increased enormously.

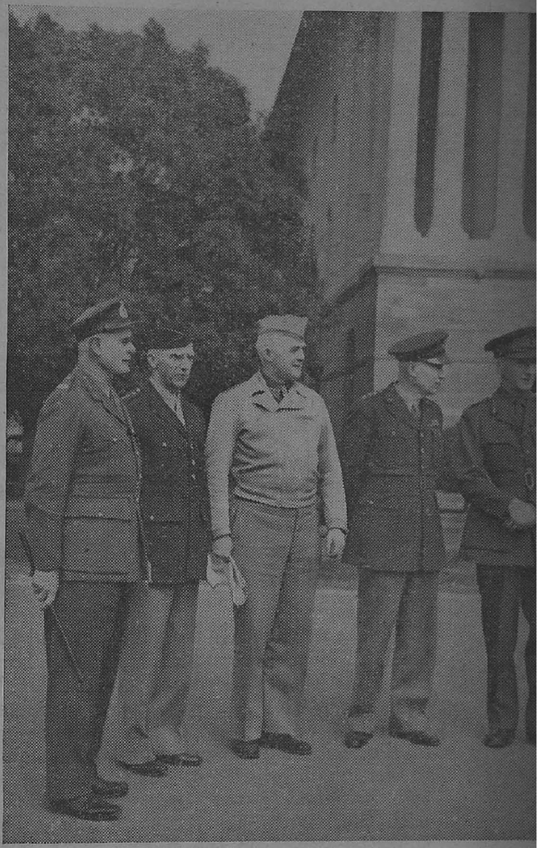
> " Her consumption of cotton," he says, " rose 600 times and the production of iron 500 times in one-and-a half centuries."

The main theme of Japanese propaganda now is to emphasise the Allied strength and rouse the Japanese to greater effort. " You must make every effort for the fulfilment of your country's aims "—this is the recurring theme. In a radio talk at Palao in the Japanese mandated islands in the south, a post-master, in a talk in Japanese, said,

> " Japan is engaged in a war of life or death. In a modern war, especially in the initial stages, there is no difference between a soldier fighting at the front and a man working at home. ......All the Japanese people who are not actually carrying guns must work with the same determination as if they were on the battle-field."

The sense of realism seems to be so pronounced that the Japanese Government even introduced a Bill " for the guidance of speech, newspapers and overseas propaganda." The Tokyo broadcast says,

> " The strictest control was unavoidable. The present war would decide the destiny of Japan. Only one way is opened for the Japanese people—to win the war. For this reason the Government is taking every precaution to prevent mistakes in speech and information. It is hoped that the people will assist and take every precaution."



ANGLO-AMERICAN ARMY OFFICERS MEET IN DELHI.—After conferences at the Secretariat, New Delhi, India, on February 1, 2 and 3, the main confreres lined up for their pictures. Left to right: Field Marshal Sir Archibald Wavell; Lieut.-Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell, commanding all United States Army troops in China, Burma and India; Lieut.-Gen. H. H. (Hap) Arnold, commanding the entire United States Army Air Forces; Lieut.-Gen. Brehon Somervell, commanding the entire Service of Supply for the United States Army; and Field MarshalSir John Dill.

It is well-known that strictest regulations are already in force in Japan, and to them have been added some more.

(*Continued on page* 6.)

THE MARETH LINE

General Sir H. R. L. G. ALEXANDER

General BERNARD MONTGOMERY

GOOD news comes from Tunisia : The Eighth Army has pierced the defences of the Mareth Line at several places. Heavy bombers of the Allied air force had been pounding ROMMEL'S positions along the line, with a view to helping GENERAL MONTGOMERY'S forces start the fresh offensive. It is stated that the day-and-night air offensive to which the enemy positions were subjected was reminiscent of the sustained battering at El Alamein before the great break-through, which led to the expulsion of the Axis forces from Egypt. The village of MARETH itself was the principal target area for Allied bombers. *Reuter's* Special Correspondent with the Eighth Army reports that Allied air attacks are on a big scale. He says that the tempo on the Mareth front is increasing with great bomb bursts at night and fierce artillery exchanges during the day. He also points out that the Axis forces are building new positions and greatly increasing their anti-aircraft guns.

Main Defence Zones

THE Mareth Line, it may be stated, was built on the pattern of the Maginot Line. It consists of three main defence zones, which run for thirty miles from the Mediterranean to a 1,600-foot range of hills called MATMATAS. The Mareth village which lies well within the main defences, is regarded as the pivot of the line, the main position of which blocks the twenty-mile gap between the salt marshes which are nearly part of Lake Jerid, and the sea. It is impossible for heavy vehicles to cross the marshes and therefore it is extremely difficult to outflank the line from the west. The sea coast itself is too shallow for landings from sizable ships.

THE Mareth Line itself consists of a string of fortified positions which have been cut into the desert rock and, wherever necessary, reinforced with concrete emplacements. There are concealed guns, underground living quarters, telephones, and underground water-supplies drawn from the Mareth oasis. The protection for the defence positions include barbed wire entanglements, pill-boxes, tank traps, machine-gun nests, and of course the usual mines. It is stated that these defences are some nine to ten miles deep.

Rommel's Plans

WHAT is ROMMEL likely to do? Will he put up prolonged resistance along his defence positions, or will he abandon the Mareth Line altogether and join VON ARNIM'S forces with the object of concentrating on defence of the tip of Tunisia with all the united strength of the Axis forces in North Africa? For, so long as Germans can deny the Allies the key-posts of BIZERTA and TUNIS, the North African coast cannot be used as a springboard by the Allies.

BUT it all depends on the progress of events in the central sector. *Reuter's* Special Correspondent with the First Army in Tunisia reports that American engineers have entered Feriana, which is 28 miles south-west of Kasserine. The capture of Kasserine Pass on February 25 is described as a resounding victory of the Allied forces over Rommel's troops. The future developments in the central sector depend on Allied ability to keep the enemy on the move. The object of the Allies is to cut the enemy communications and sever VON ARNIM'S forces in the north completely from those of ROMMEL in the south. The battle in Tunisia itself is thus one of communications.

As regards the northern sector, the situation has not materially changed.

Not an Easy Task

THOUGH the position on the Mareth front shows some signs of deterioration for the Axis, it is as yet too early to expect that there will be a collapse. ROMMEL'S retreat into Tunisia has, to all intents and purposes, brought about the merging of the two Axis armies. In his great retreat westwards across Libya, ROMMEL was able to take with him a number of base garrison troops and also considerable equipment at depots such as Tobruk, Derna, Barce and Benghazi. It is estimated that ROMMEL has some 50,000 men. This, combined with VON ARNIM'S forces which number 75,000, makes the total German troops in Tunisia come to about 120,000 men. It is not an easy task to clear a well-equipped army of 120,000 men from its last stronghold, which is so close to the main base of supplies.

Battle for Tunisia: Prospects

THE Battle for Tunisia is, therefore, likely to be long and hard, though ultimately there can only be one end to it. It is a very important battle, on the speedy outcome of which depends the early launching of a Second Front in Europe. The Axis must be pushed out of Tunis and Bizerta before any attempt can be made by Britain and America to invade the Continent. HITLER knows this only too well, and that is why he has diverted a very substantial part of his dwindling strength for the purpose of defending his positions in North Africa. His object in doing so is to delay the Allied attack on occupied Europe as long as possible. By merely keeping the Allies engaged he will be preventing, to a certain extent, the despatch of troops and supplies to Russia, which at present would be required for the operations in North Africa.

General Alexander's Appointment

THE appointment of General Alexander in immediate charge of the operations, as General Eisenhower's deputy, has been welcomed by *The Times*. He comes on the scene, says the paper, "at a time of disappointment. But he has already turned a defeat into a resounding victory at the other end of the Mediterranean." "A less dramatic reversal of fortune than he achieved at El Alamein", adds *The Times*, "if brought about with the speed of which he is master, may determine the whole course of the war, not in Africa, but in Europe."

ALL eyes are on the Mareth Line, and on Tunis and Bizerta. The unity of Allied command and the firm determination of the Allies will no doubt bring about the utter collapse of the Axis, but time is of the essence of the thing. It is to be hoped that General Alexander and General Montgomery will repeat their successes in the Western Desert in the last outpost of the Axis in Africa.

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RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page* 3.)

Production of Planes : Japan's Difficulties. Why has Japan decided to drop its boastful tone and regulate its propaganda in such a distinctive manner, both at home and abroad ? The reason is apparent. Japan is experiencing considerable difficulty in the production of planes, training of pilots, etc., and this fact cannot be concealed. Replying to a question about training of pilots, TERAGIMA, the Japanese Minister for Communications, said, according to a Tokyo broadcast in Japanese on February 16 :

> "Every effort was being made to train them. . . Short-term courses are being considered. Further, in all schools and colleges, preparatory courses on the art of flying will be opened to make youths air-minded."

Another broadcast in Japanese said,

> "The Government is also planning to equip all schools and colleges with model planes and practice planes to give special flying education to the students."

Yet another broadcast referring to the production of planes, said,

> "The Hodogaya Chemical Industries Company, Ltd., were honoured by the Ministry of War for their valuable services to the Japanese war front. Conquering all *difficulties* the Company succeeded in producing the quantities of chemicals demanded by the military authorities for aeroplanes."

The word "difficulties" deserves to be noted. To ease her difficulties, which are considerable, Japan is trying to exploit Manchuria further. A Batavia broadcast in English on February 10 reported that a mysterious new alloy had been discovered and that this would help in the solution of aeroplane production problems. It added,

> "Nippon is now in a position to obtain a more than adequate supply of aircraft metal from the unlimited supplies in Manchuria."

The President of the Manchuria Industrial Development Corporation stated that Manchuria's aircraft production had increased in the past two years and that she can produce aluminum shells by cheap and abundant electric power. In other words, the Japanese exploitation of Manchuria is still further increasing in its scope and intensity.

* * * *

Cotton not Sufficient for Japan's Needs. Among other problems facing Japan is that of cotton. According to a Japanese home broadcast on February 15, KISHI, the Japanese Minister of Commerce and Industry, replying to a question in the House of Representatives, said,

> "As the quantity of cotton now available to Japan is insufficient to meet her total demand, the Government will mobilise every possible source to solve the problem. China will be the centre of Japan's cotton producing scheme."

From this it will be clear that the indigenous economy in South-Eastern Asia has been dislocated by Japan's drive for more cotton.

Among other articles which are preeminently necessary for the successful prosecution of a modern war are petroleum, iron, cooking coal, manganese, copper, nickel, tungsten, etc. Japan has to import all these articles from outside. Before the war Japan imported 3,200,000 tons of pig iron, 2,224 tons of manganese, 256,000 tons of nickel, 11,300 tons of copper, and so on. These materials used to come from countries, whose markets are now closed to Japan.

* * * *

Shipping : Japan's Policy of Sufficiency of Subject Areas. As regards shipping, Japan faces a serious problem. A Tokyo broadcast in Japanese on February 10 stated that the shipping situation was far from being easy and much effort was being taken "on the salvage of sunken ships." A Batavia broadcast in English on the same day said,

> "Manchuria can be trusted with providing Nippon's domestic shipbuilding yards with all the necessary materials, including iron, without importing them."

Japan wants that her subject areas should each become a self-sufficient economic unit so as to avoid undue strain on Japan's merchant shipping. There

are a number of other statements of Japanese origin, which clearly show that the policy of self-sufficiency in occupied Asia is due mainly to the difficulty of Japanese shipping position. On August 2, *GENERAL HOMMA* said,

> " The economy of the Philippines which would eventually become an integral part of the greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, for the present must become self-sufficient in food and daily necessities."

A Tokyo broadcast said on July 8th,

> " In order to establish self-sufficiency in the most important foodstuffs in the Malayan Peninsula, the Japanese military authorities have decided to cultivate rice fields, wherever possible."

The Japanese shipping difficulty was further made clear in an article in the *Koelnische Zeitung* on July 9th.

> "The Japanese Government," it said, " has not yet made a decision as to whether it is desirable to transfer a certain proportion of industry to Southern areas, in order to save shipping space . . . "

Thus it will be seen that Japan is experiencing considerable difficulties in regard to certain problems, the most important of which is that of shipping.

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Japan and Germany : Consolation in Comparative Suffering. It is of interest to note that in the home broadcasts the Japanese have been asked to derive some consolation and strength for themselves from a knowledge of the conditions in Germany. A Tokyo broadcast said on February 3,

> " The people in Japan do not suffer so much as the people in Germany do. People in Japan should be thankful for them. The German people are not optimistic concerning the present war, but, after their bitter experience during the previous world war, they are determined to win this time at any cost."

This line of propaganda adopted by Tokyo has, it will be seen, given up the usual trumpeting forth of Japan's greatness as a military power and is pitched in a minor key which reveals Japan's difficult plight.

* * * *

Red Cross Week : Lady Linlithgow's Appeal. The All-India Red Cross Week (March 1-7) was inaugurated by Her Excellency Lady Linlithgow by a broadcast from A.I.R., Delhi. Her Excellency paid a tribute to the great work done by the Red Cross and appealed for funds to carry on the good work. The main objects of the Indian Red Cross are (1) to benefit the sick, wounded and convalescent of the Services, and (2) the provision of comforts for Indian prisoners of war. It has been estimated that the cost of supplies for war hospital beds for 1943 comes to Rs. 84 lakhs and that parcels for Indian prisoners of war will cost approximately Rs. 70 lakhs. If sufficient support is not forthcoming from the public, Her Excellency said, the efforts of the Red Cross will have to be curtailed—" The people of India will not allow this to happen—You cannot allow this to happen. . . . Give generously now and contribute regularly for the duration of the war, thus ensuring the steady income which alone will enable the Indian Red Cross and St. John Ambulance to continue the great humanitarian work which only they can do." We strongly endorse Her Excellency's appeal and hope that the public will contribute generously to the Red Cross Fund.

THE FOUR PILLARS

The Red Army was founded in order to maintain the Russian people's right to exist under its own forms of social and political organization. By its endurance, its valour and its victories, it has established something more. On the four Powers that have proved strong enough to outride the storm of new barbarism rests the responsibility to make themselves into four chief pillars of the future world. The British Empire, the United States of America, the Chinese Republic and the Soviet Union are all communities representing widely differing forms of political and social faith, but they have learnt in the stress of battle that the ideals and the necessities that they share go deeper and they have the task of building up in the years to come, on the basis of these common ideals, a synthesis of practical relations in which diversities of expression can be reconciled. To such a synthesis the Soviet Union and Great Britain are now closely bound by their 20-year treaty of alliance.—*The Times.*

A Nation of Disillusioned Cynics

By W. A. SINCLAIR

[*Mr. Sinclair is not only one of Britain's most analytical students of enemy propaganda, he is in normal times a member of the philosophy department of the University of Edinburgh. Being a Scotsman and a philosopher he is also a moralist, and it is perhaps more as a moralist-philosopher than as a debunker of enemy propaganda that he writes here.*]

THERE is a point about Nazi education that I have been thinking over a good deal of late. I am inclined to think that its long-term results are going to be different from what was expected by foreign observers and expected by the Nazis themselves. In fact, I think that the tone of recent German Home propaganda shows that this unexpected consequence has come about already.

You know how the Nazis scrapped the old German educational system and how they set up a new one designed to make the Germans, especially German youths and children, into unthinking fanatics, into human machines that the Nazi leaders could control and direct for their own purposes. It looks to me as if the effect of all this has been to produce in the end not single-minded, whole-hearted fanatics full of zest, but something that is at first sight almost the opposite of this, namely, disillusioned cynics.

The system did produce single-minded, self-sacrificing fanatics for a time; but as the years went on, these manufactured fanatics found life losing its zest, and those one-time fanatics are now ending by getting no zest out of anything. Only the crudest material satisfactions seem to have any attraction for them now. This doesn't make the Nazis any the less dangerous. They are desperately dangerous to us still. But it is an illuminating change to study.

It is typical of what seems to be a general rule about the government of human society. If you have got complete political power over any given human society, and if you want to produce a specified result, you can generally produce it. But at the same time you will probably produce inadvertently other results which you did not want; which may be altogether different from the results you wanted; and which may in the end produce a situation the opposite of what you wanted.

STORY YOU MAY LIKE TO QUOTE

There is a picturesqué biological story that I often think of in this connection. It occurred in the dairy industry, in cattle breeding. The dairy farmers wanted cows that would be quiet animals as well as good milkers. The dairy farmers found that they could not make a profit out of cows, no matter how good milkers they might be, if they would not stand still but kicked over the milk pail or disconnected the mechanical milker. So the animal geneticists made a special study of the inheritance of docility in cows, and set about breeding cows that would stand quietly. They succeeded. They produced a very quiet and very docile breed. That was what they had expected. But they inadvertently produced another result that they had not expected; for the male of this quiet breed of dairy cows is the dairy bull, which is probably one of the most violent and incalculable and dangerous of all animals. The lion and the tiger are at least calculable in their tendency to attack men; the dairy bull is not. It may behave quietly for months on end, and then without any warning it may turn upon the man who has been feeding it, gore him, tread upon him, and deliberately kill him. This is what the geneticists produced as well as the docile cow.

This biological story, by the way, is one you may find useful to quote to unrealistic persons who blithely draw up plans which they assert will solve all human problems. These plans may well produce what their designers want—and a great deal more that they don't want. Human beings and human society are not so simple.

I think something like the cattle-breeders' experience is now coming upon the Nazi Government in its educational scheme. At first these schemes produced a state of mind in the young German that the Nazis wanted, but later the state of mind they produced was one the Nazis did not want, and which they are now finding unmanageable and dangerous.

This is a result that the mediative observer of human nature in general could, I think, have quite reasonably foretold, even though he had no experience of the particular case of Nazi Germany. Human nature seems to be so. It just seems to be one of those observable facts about human nature that may seem mysterious, but just are so—the same sort of mysterious fact about human nature as the observable fact that if you set out to pursue happiness, and happiness only, you don't get it. Happiness and contentment seem to be by-products of the pursuit of something else. Happiness seems to come as a by-product if you set out to do a job of work as your primary aim—at least, it may come in this way if other circumstances permit. It just doesn't come any other way. In a similarly mysterious way, the manufactured fanatics end as cynics. Why they should do so is another story. The observable fact is that they do.

Now, though we could have anticipated from our observation of the ways and works of man that men and women who are systematically drilled in a modern State as unthinking fanatics will end as disillusioned cynics; though we could have foretold this, the interesting point is that there is clear, factual evidence that this development is by now well advanced in Germany already.

You can see this very clearly from the present tone of German Home propaganda. As you know, whatever we may think of German Home propaganda from the moral point of view, there is no doubt that it is efficient where short-term results are concerned. As far as short-term results are concerned it works; because if it doesn't work the Nazi propagandists are promptly thrown out of their jobs. We don't find the Nazi Propaganda Ministry steadily sending out propaganda of a uniform tone to the German people for weeks or months on end if that propaganda doesn't appeal to the German people.

ONE DISILLUSIONED CYNIC TO ANOTHER

There has been a most remarkable tone in German Home propaganda of late. Ten weeks ago I was beginning to suspect that this change was, in fact, taking place. Since then this new tone has been practically standard. It runs uniformly through all Nazi Home propaganda. The Nazi Government is now appealing to the German people on the most crudely materialistic lines. The difference from the fantastically ideological propaganda of 1940 is remarkable. During the last few months the uniform tone of all Nazi Home propaganda, including the speeches of the Propaganda Minister himself, has been that Germany is not fighting about ideals or ideologies but is fighting for material gains only, and that the way to get them is to take them from other people.

Goebbels himself said in his last speech at Munich: 'We aren't fighting for lofty ideals . . . more important things are at stake: iron, oil, and wheat.' The impression you get if you listen to any one of the Nazi Home propagandists at the moment (I mean the impression you get from voice and manner, as well as from what is said) is that he is speaking as one disillusioned cynic talking knowingly to other disillusioned cynics. These propagandists are saying to the German people that they must go on fighting, because if they don't they will be cold and hungry; and they are also saying that being warm and well-fed and comfortable is all that really matters, and that ideals are humbug. It is very remarkable change.

WHAT HITLER SAYS ABOUT IT

When I detected the first signs of this coming change in the tone of German Home propaganda I was somewhat perplexed. Hitler's own theory of propaganda was, you know, quite the opposite of this. He said in *Mein Kampf* that the only way to keep the German people going was to make them believe that they were fighting for ideals, and he said that in the last war as soon as the German people ceased to believe they were fighting for ideals they collapsed. His actual words were: 'As long as the German people still thought they were fighting for ideals they held out; when they were made only to fight for their daily bread, they preferred to give in.' Hitler then went on to write that the German statesmen of 1918 were wrong in their policy of telling the Germans that they were fighting only for their daily bread. He said: 'These statesmen never grasped the fact that when a man starts fighting for economic motives only he does all he can to avoid death, since death would for ever rob him of the reward of his fight.' That is what Hitler wrote in 1924.

I wondered at first whether Goebbels was going off on his own on this materialistic line contrary to Hitler's propaganda principles. But things don't happen like that in Nazi Germany. If that materialistic tone had appeared for one week only it might have been a temporary vagary of Dr. Goebbels' alone, but a change in the whole tone of propaganda could not take place and be kept up for months without Hitler's approval. As the weeks have gone by I have become convinced that Hitler as well as Goebbels now think that the only appeal that will have any effect on the German people is this simply materialistic one.

This, for a time at least, did work. The young Nazis I used to know in Germany before the war, and the Nazi soldiers and airmen who were taken prisoner by us in 1940 and 1941, were fanatics. Hitler had succeeded in producing what he wanted to produce. But, unfortunately for him, the process does not stop there. Human nature is not like clay; it doesn't simply stay in whatever shape you pat it into; it goes on developing on its own. If you bring up boys and girls, men and women, as the Nazis have brought up the German people for the last ten years, then you can bring them to a condition of passionate, enthusiastic, zestful fanaticism. But they don't stay like that. That passes, and instead they come to have a feeling of futility, and they end as completely disillusioned cynics without standards of any kind, except the crudest materialistic ones. This seems to be what is happening now in Nazi Germany. All the evidence I have been able to accumulate from broadcast propaganda, from newspapers, from neutral travellers in Germany, and from other sources, confirms this.

On the short-term results Hitler's judgment seems generally to be accurate; it is on the long-term results that things turn out differently from what he expected—*Broadcast in the BBC's Empire and North American Services.*

Battle to Open up Europe

By RAYMOND CLAPPER

INFORMED opinion here regards the progress of the war from now on as largely a matter of progress in transportation.

Facilities have been completed to place Allied production far beyond the hopes of Axis production. Fresh American manpower is coming in by hundreds of thousands every month to add to the veteran Allied forces already in the field.

A year ago the Axis was deriding President Roosevelt's call for 8,000,000 tons of new shipping in 1942, saying that we would be several years building 8,000,000 tons. We built somewhat over 8,000,000 tons in 1942. We plan to do twice that or better this year, and will.

THE PROBLEM OF THE U-BOAT

That is the optimistic side. The pessimistic side is that a considerable number of ships built last year will go to the bottom of the ocean this year unless we are more successful in dealing with German submarines than we have been.

American officials regard the submarine as the only serious unsolved problem of the war. Even the submarine, devastating as it can be, will not be able to defeat the Allies but can only slow down the progress of the Allied offensive which will be taking shape in the coming months.

Following Tripoli, the war advances into a new phase. For all practical purposes, the battle for control of Africa is over. The Axis has been defeated in its attempt to break across the land bridge of the Middle East. Russia's powerful armies and the tenacious British Eighth Army under General Montgomery have ended the dangerous threat of a break-through in the Middle East. Russia has driven back the German pincers on the north, and the British in Africa have driven back the other prong of the pincers.

The battle for the Tunisia triangle is a new phase. It is not so much a battle for Africa as a battle to open up Europe. It is the Germans' first big defensive campaign in the west. Russia has already put Germany into defensive retreat in the east. Now Germany begins her real rearguard fight in the west.

QUESTION OF TIME

There is confidence in the High Command here that Allied resources will in time knock out the Germans in Tunisia. This confidence is qualified with reservations as to the amount of time that will be required, because of the transportation necessary to get our forces and supplies to the front in sufficient quantity.

Hitler took over from the feeble young republic on January 30, 1933. He has produced in a short time a nation as completely and efficiently mobilized for total war as has ever been seen. Hitler knew that the democracies were not prepared for war and were not even aware of the attack he was organizing. He had everything in his favour that an aggressor could hope to have.

But Hitler was never able to break through the iron ring. In three summer campaigns Hitler has struck his terrific blows—the first summer at western Europe and the last two summers in the east. With his mighty forces Hitler has inflicted severe wounds on the Allies. But they were not mortal.

Hitler begins his second decade as a murderous beast, surrounded but not caught, and in fact still dangerous to approach—but with escape impossible.

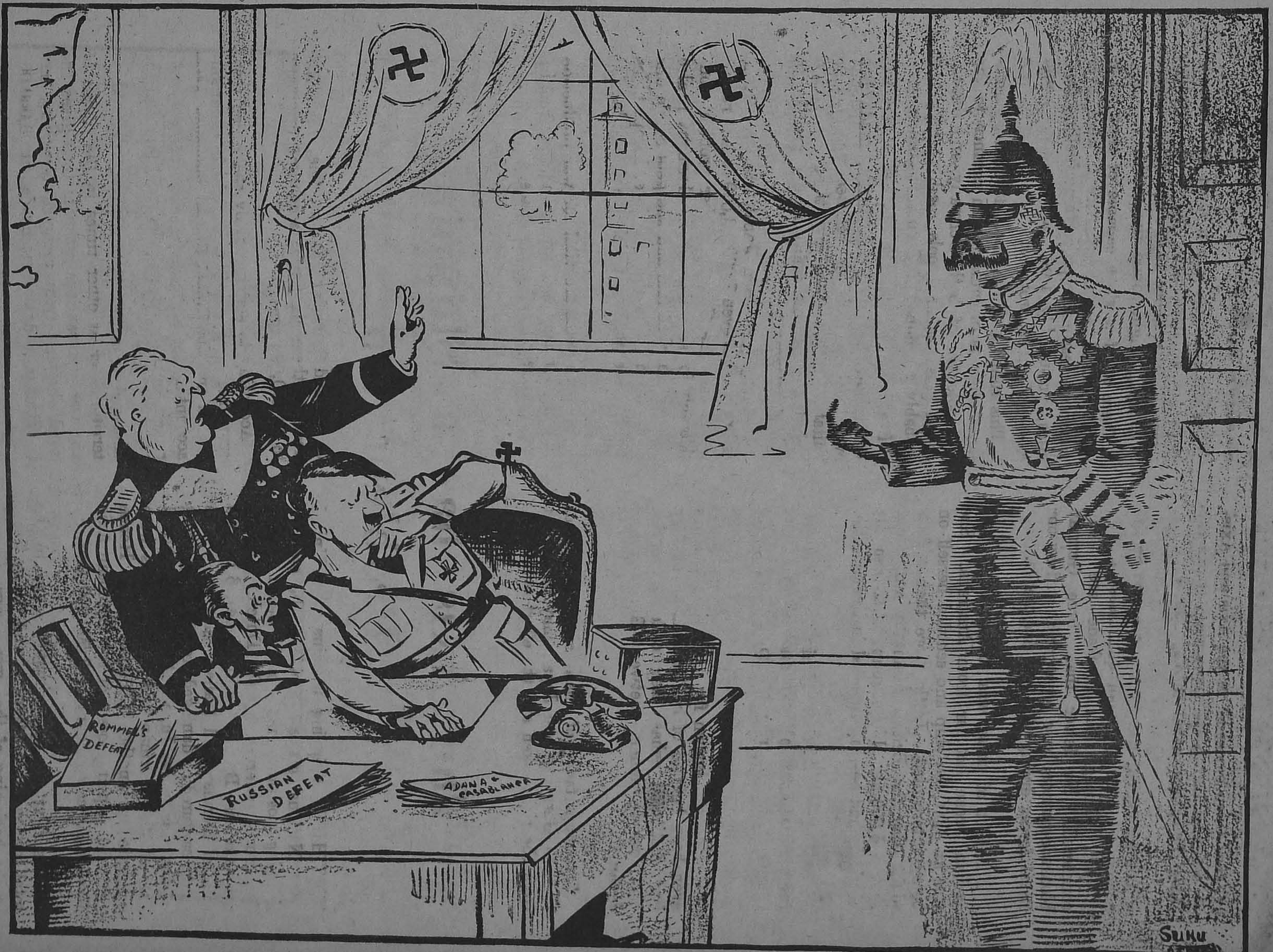
INDIA'S DESTINY

A REMARKABLE PARALLEL

[*The following is an extract from* "The Spectator," *November* 27, 1942. *The italics are ours—Editor,* Madras War Review.]

"The United States would not be in this war to-day if it still recollected the bitterness of its past relations with Britain. Irishmen, both North and South, have no reason to be particularly grateful to Britain so far as its recollection of the past is concerned. We in the North have, however, learned to forget and have chosen, with advantage to ourselves, the pathway of peace and progress. When our brethren in the South learn to eradicate the memory of past bitternesses and decide to walk in friendly co-operation with their fellows, then, and then only, will I have any hope of the successful removal of the dual partition which exists between the North and South and between Eire and Great Britain. *Such a solution, however, can only come from within and is obviously a matter for the people of Eire, who must decide their own destiny and make their own decisions.* To enforce those decisions, either upon North or South, will only lead to undesirable strife and make for still greater dismemberment.

THOMAS BAILIE, M.P., North Down."



DOO"N"ED!

Blockade of Axis Europe

THE Allied blockade of the Axis and Axis-occupied Europe is tightening, writes the *Daily Telegraph* naval correspondent.

The emergency measures resorted to by the enemy for running small quantities of vital supplies through the blockade are being countered. No fewer than three German blockade-runners have been intercepted by our naval forces during the past five weeks.

The first of these was intercepted in the Indian Ocean not far from Australia. She was an 8,000-ton ship and scuttled herself on being intercepted. Little more than a fortnight later the British Admiralty announced that a 5,000-ton ship attempting to run the blockade had been intercepted in the Atlantic.

On January 3, the Admiralty announced the interception of yet another blockade-runner in the Atlantic—a ship of about 10,000 tons.

It had been known for some time and has even been boasted of by the Nazis that they had instituted what they called a service of blockade-runners between Germany and Japan.

The importance of these blockade-runners to both Germany and Japan may be judged from the risks taken and the effort employed.

EVASIVE ROUTE

The evasive route which must be taken, if ships are to have any chance of avoiding interception, is about 23,000 miles, equivalent to a voyage right round the world.

There are few ships capable of that, so if the "blockade-running service" were ever to assume reasonable proportions fuelling facilities, presumably from other ships, would have had to be provided.

This running of the blockade even by occasional ships is of immense importance to the war potential of both Germany and Japan. Japan gets machine tools, ball-bearings and probably a number of German technicians.

It should be remembered that Japan has never built her own machinery, made her own machine tools or ball-bearings and is imitative rather than inventive, so foreign technicians are an indispensable prelude to new developments.

Germany gets from Japan rubber. It is estimated that even 7,000—8,000 tons of rubber would ease the German rubber problem considerably for several months. Germany is also seriously short of fats and she gets edible oils from Japan. She also gets jute, hemp, hides and Chinese tungsten which she uses to harden steel.

All these items are vital for war production of both Germany and Japan and they require comparatively small cargo space.

The Axis has a Shipping Problem too

WHILE shipping remains the United Nations' gravest problem, the enemy's shipping position has itself become very dangerous, observes Oswald Dutch. According to official British communiques, 6,180,000 tons of German and Italian shipping were sunk, captured or damaged from the beginning of the war up to June 1942. In the second half of 1942 German and Italian losses were estimated at another 1,300,000 tons. Hence the total shipping losses of the European Axis Powers already amount to 7,500,000 tons.

This figure is approximately equal to the total tonnage of the German and Italian fleets at the beginning of the war, says Oswald Dutch. At that time Germany possessed about 4,000,000 tons of shipping space (exclusive of inland shipping), and Italy 3,448,000 tons. It is true that Germany has seized part of the Norwegian, Dutch, French, Danish, Greek and Yugoslav fleets. The merchant fleets of these six States amounted originally to 14,170,000 tons.

According to statements by the Allied Governments (excluding the British Commonwealth and the United States), however, after accounting for all losses, about 7,350,000 tons remain in the service of Great Britain and the United States. About 4,000,000 tons were damaged or sunk during battles for these territories or at other times in the course of the war. A cautious estimate thus gives the total shipping from occupied territories now in German and Italian hands at 3,000,000 tons.

STRAIN ON ENEMY RESOURCES

The European Axis Powers need their fleet to maintain traffic in the Mediterranean, in the Baltic and the North Sea, as also in the Adriatic and along the whole length of the

French coast. The total tonnage available for these purposes is the 3,000,000 tons just mentioned, and in addition any ships built on the Continent since 1939.

In the peak years of production, a total of 510,000 tons of shipping could be built in Germany, while in Italy the top capacity was 220,000 tons. German and Italian docks, however, as well as those of occupied territories have now been mainly turned over to the construction of submarines and repair of damaged ships. The total capacity of all continental docks for the construction of new merchant ships is estimated at 500,000 tons. The maximum increase in shipping tonnage that the Axis Powers could have registered in the past three years is thus 1,500,000 tons. If we add to this the 3,000,000 tons captured from occupied countries, we arrive at a total of 4,500,000 tons of shipping now at the disposal of the Axis—if anything, an over-estimate in favour of the Axis.

This is not the only shipping difficulty that the Axis Powers have to face. Their greatest losses have been incurred in the Mediterranean. It is, however, impossible to replace lost ships by sending craft from Western and Northern Europe, since the Straits of Gibraltar present an impassable obstacle.

Hard Struggle before Germany

THE German Press and Radio have now disclosed frankly to the public that "Germany is now sustaining for the first time a defeat of importance." Following the careful build-up of the last few days, Goebbels has now lifted the veil.

"It is a question of the future of us all," say Berlin papers with one voice. "For the army it is fight, fight, fight; for the civilians it is work, work, work."

The Stockholms Tidningen Berlin correspondent says that every German now knows what has happened in Stalingrad and what is going on along the whole Russian front and of the loss of Tripoli. Details and place names are still omitted but German readers and radio listeners are no longer left in doubt that matters are grave.

"Bolshevism or victory" is now the rallying cry, revealing Hitler's intention to frighten, first the German people and secondly, he evidently hopes, the rest of the world with the resurrection of the Red menace. It is admitted that Germany in the Caucasus is in retreat and that strategic points of value have had to be abandoned.

Through newspapers and radio, the Nazis now tell the public plainly the bitter fact that the era of blitzkriegs is over and that one hard and defensive struggle, which will demand all they have got to give, now lies before the German people with everything at stake.

Neutral correspondents declare that Berliners have maintained their normal apathetic manner after the recent cold douche of unpalatable facts.

Keeping Axis Disarmed After War

IT is a definite war aim that the Axis shall be disarmed and kept disarmed. President Roosevelt made that an emphatic point in his annual message to Congress, writes the American columnist, Raymond Clapper. When he said he had learned that peace could not be maintained by good intentions alone, the President was talking the practical commonsense that the Axis must be licked by force—which he now regards as a certainty—and that it must be kept from building up another war machine to make a third try for world conquest.

To keep the Axis disarmed will require action by the victor nations. Only the United Nations, co-operating, could hope to keep Germany, Japan and Italy from re-arming, as Germany did after the last war. No one can take the position that the Axis must be kept disarmed and at the same time oppose American participation in the responsibility for seeing that the Axis does not re-arm, says Clapper. Isolation would be telling Germany and Japan to try it again on the first favourable occasion.

POSSIBLE METHODS

President Roosevelt did not go into detail in his message, but military and civilian circles in Washington have been mulling over possible methods. The Axis countries would be forbidden to make aircraft or tanks, for instance, continues Clapper. United Nations inspectors would be assigned to check Axis industrial plants to make sure that parts were not being made surreptitiously. Any violation of the prohibitions against the manufacture of arms in Axis countries would bring quick punishment.

It must be a cardinal principle in any such enforcement that punishment be quick and sure. That is more likely to end trouble that a wavering, uncertain course. Japan in

Manchuria, Mussolini in Ethiopia, Hitler in the Rhineland, and Austria in Czechoslovakia gambled on hesitation and division among other countries. Because of that hesitation they got away with their aggressive moves.

REPUBLICAN LEADER'S WORDS

That is why people who want to see us stick together and stick with our allies to prevent the perpetration of another world war welcome the helpful words of the new Republican Party National Chairman, Harrison Spangler. He says that the American people will not be divided on world peace plans when the treaty is being written to end the war.

" People will want us to sit down with representatives of other nations," Mr. Spangler says, " and work out the best plan the brains of the world can devise to prevent another terrible war."

Mr. Spangler's words will undoubtedly encourage American men who are fighting the war, Clapper observes. Every man in our armed forces will fight harder with the knowledge that back home the leaders of the Opposition party as well as those of the Administration party are determined to follow through and not again boot away the victorious peace won at high cost behind the gun.

We expect to defeat the Axis as completely as Germany was defeated in the last war. But, as Mr. Spangler says, we must work out the best plan to prevent another such war, asserts Clapper. That will not be done unless we are in on it, and the Republican National Chairman recognizes this clearly in moving to bring his party into support of such efforts.

This is certainly the time to follow the old American tradition that politics ends at the water's edge.

Countering Nazi Plunder

VICTORY would be a mockery indeed, if it were not used to assure to the victims 100 per cent restitution by the despoilers. In the looting of the subjugated countries, the Nazis have been as fullblooded as in every other department of atrocity.

Modern history records nothing to compare with the calculated ruthlessness which has marked the pillaging of one after another of the occupied territories. We have it on the authority of Goering himself that whoever starves in Europe, it will not be Germans and we have irrefutable proof of the systematic way in which every conquered region has been stripped to feed the German war machine.

In many cases the restitution will involve the relatively simple, if laborious, procedure, as for example, the restoration of the scores of thousands of Poles and Slovenes who have been evicted without compensation from their homes, farms and factories.

A particularly odious feature of the whole organized banditry, now afflicting the helpless populations of Europe, is the evidence of careful planning in advance of occupation. In Russia, for instance, service battalions followed close on the heels of the German troops in order to make sure that anything lootable was efficiently collected and promptly despatched to the appointed reception centre.

Often, however, the Nazis have resorted to the most plausible disguises to conceal the reality of the plunder. These were abundantly exemplified in a pamphlet published a few days ago by the Inter-Allied Information Bureau on the penetration of German ownership into the occupied territories and the devious means employed to gain control over the local economic system.

In their new declaration, the United Nations make it clear that they have no intention of being hoodwinked by any legal fictions, however, specious. The reservation of the right to invalidate any transaction which can be traced, directly or indirectly, to German origin should afford ample scope for exacting restitution wherever it is due. It was also wise to give notice that the offenders will not be protected from disgorging their plunder or by depositing it in neutral countries—a practice which will become increasingly prevalent as the doom gathers round the criminals.—The *Daily Telegraph*.

SPACE SAVER

The double-tier bed, for Army use, is another introduction from the "Mysterious West" which has puzzled the Indian soldier.

Four corner pieces of timber, with one bed slung low and the top bed a few feet above it, it made its appearance in Britain early in the war.

The idea, of course, is to save space. If you have double-tier beds forty men can sleep in a space where only 20 slept before.

But one Indian soldier, looking around the vast stretch of desert which surrounded his barracks, said that there seemed to him to be plenty of space, but " may be in that land of mystery, the West, there wasn't so much room."

Turkey : Lease-Lend Aid From U.S.

By LEONARD KIRSCHEN

THE whole economic interest of Turkey is still centred on the capital levy tax. The whole future of Turkish trade depends on its success or even on the eventual amendments which it might suffer. According to provisional figures, about £(T) 200,000,000 out of the £(T) 430,000,000 the Government had promised itself, has now come in. In the meantime, the original time limits set up for payment have expired, as have the various extensions given later.

Out of 60,000 people who had to pay this tax at Istanbul, only 20,000 have paid. This ratio is also expressed in figures: so far £(T) 100,000,000 of the expected £(T) 340,000,000 has come in at Istanbul. At Izmir—Smyrna—1,700 people have not paid and in Ankara about 600 people have not. The Turkish Government says that it is out to mobilize labour and it now seems clear that it will get about 45,000 people. Among these are many women who will be obliged to do "municipal work."

NORMAL EXCHANGE OF GOODS

The relatively mild winter has not interrupted railway traffic as it did last year, and the exchange of goods is normal. There is still a slight coal shortage in the larger towns like Istanbul and Ankara, but nothing like the shortage we had expected, because the weather has been exceptionally mild in Istanbul with little or no snow. The interior of Anatolia has suffered a bit, and especially the north and central sections, where this winter's earthquakes were felt. The work of reconstruction cannot be continued in the winter, but with the help of the Red Crescent, accommodation and relief for the homeless has been found.

Turkey has signed a series of agreements with Germany through the Turkish Eti Bankasi, which controls chrome and must deliver to Germany a quantity of 135,000 tons of chrome by October, 1944. The actual chrome production for the same period is estimated at 120,000 tons. Turkish deliveries, however, depend on German deliveries of armaments, which have to come in first, and then *pro rata* Germany can obtain chrome but has to ship it herself, whereas German goods have to be delivered c.i.f. Turkish ports.

There are two agreements by which this exchange of armaments with chrome is governed. One is the additional protocol to the Clodius agreement signed in October, 1941, by which Germany is bound to deliver about £(T) 16,000,000 of armaments, and the other is a new credit of RM 100,000,000 (about £(T) 60,000,000) finally signed in December last year but really of pre-war vintage.

As far as can be ascertained in Turkish circles, the Germans have delivered only £ (T) 2,000,000 worth of goods, as foreseen in a separate section attached to the Clodius agreement. This entitles them to something less than 12 per cent of the quantity of chrome they have asked for. For the moment, however, all the chrome stocks in Turkish possession on January 8 were turned over to Britain. That means that all the chrome Germany will now get must be the result of fresh work. It is not until March 31 that we can have a clear picture of what is happening.

SURPLUS TO BRITAIN

It is understood that after the fulfilment of these obligations Turkey will sell the surplus to Britain and so to the United States, where all this chrome goes. The surplus, however, is largely a matter of production. The Turkish Government thinks that it can double and treble production, but the main difficulty is transport from the mines to loading centres for lack of ships and goods trucks. One thing, however, is certain, and that is that Germany will not get much chrome by the time the war is over.

The coming year will see a great improvement in Turkey's air communications. Six large passenger aircraft have been ordered in the United States, it is believed—and they will provide fast services with eastern and north-eastern Anatolia.

On the whole there will be a series of improvements in Turkey's eastern international railway communications. It is hoped that the link with Iraq will be completed during this year and direct communication established between the two countries. The new coast line from Haifa in Palestine to Tripoli in Syria is already handling goods intended for Turkey and has improved the position at Iskendrun and Mersin, where the harbour facilities are still inadequate.

COMPLETION OF MOTOR ROADS

Having in mind the wear and tear of rolling stock, it cannot be said that the position has much improved during the last year. The few hundred freight cars imported from abroad have just replaced those which have had to be scrapped. The locomotive position, however, seems to have been partly improved, and there seem to be no great haulage difficulties across the Toros mountains. The completion of a series of motor roads has eased the local position in some parts of the country.

The Turkish Prime Minister has mentioned in an interview given to a British correspondent that war materials as foreseen in the

Anglo-Turkish Pact and in the Lease-lend Agreement are now pouring into Turkey and that for the last two months the position has been extremely satisfactory. Lease-lend materials are now coming to Turkey direct from the United States without the British guarantee and in the words of the Premier, "the agreement is working extremely satisfactorily." People in the streets of Ankara and Istanbul have already seen the first Valentines and Crusaders, and there are more to come. British and American instructors are now functioning at the Ankara Tank School.

Turkey and Britain: A Tradition

THE following comment by Deputy H. C. Yaltchin on the relations between Turkey and Britain is taken from the Istanbul newspaper *Yeni Sabah* :—

Our friendship with England constitutes the most important of our political traditions. Furthermore the existence and maintenance of Turkish sovereignty over the Straits, Eastern Europe and Anatolia have always formed one of the essential points of British diplomacy. In the most difficult and critical times in our history the London Government was opposed to the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire; and if the disastrous treaty of San-Stefano was modified, it was due to their intervention and help.

During our visit to London, Mr. Churchill was told that Enver Pacha's son was there, and he expressed a wish to see him. During the conversation he said that he considered Enver Pacha a great patriot, though in the last war the dead general had entered the lists against the Allied Powers.

It is he British character to admire even their enemies, and if we like our British friends, it is because we appreciate this characteristic. Two nations who understand each other and admire each other—two governments who see their mutual interests in reciprocal help—can only have friendly feelings towards each other.

The Turco-British alliance is, then, for us, the product of this feeling and spirit of comprehension.

Turkey's Communications

TURKEY'S neutrality and the need for national defence have led to an extensive improvement of her system of communications during the last three years. The only remaining section of the Istanbul-Baghdad railway, between Mosul and Baiji in Iraq, and a line from Sivas to Erzurum were completed in July 1940. In August 1941, the survey of the projected line from Elaziz to the Persian frontier (575 km.) was concluded as far as Lake Van, the actual construction being completed up to Capakcur in February 1942.

Another line from Diyarbekir through Bitlis to Lake Van, with a ferry boat service across the lake to Van, was planned in May 1940, and work on the road-bed of the Diyarbekir-Cizre line, which will serve the recently discovered oilfield of Ramandag, was finished in February 1942 and rails laid as far as Saman, 70 km. from Diyarbekir. Surveys have been conducted for a line, to be called the Northern Line, from Erzurum to Istanbul.

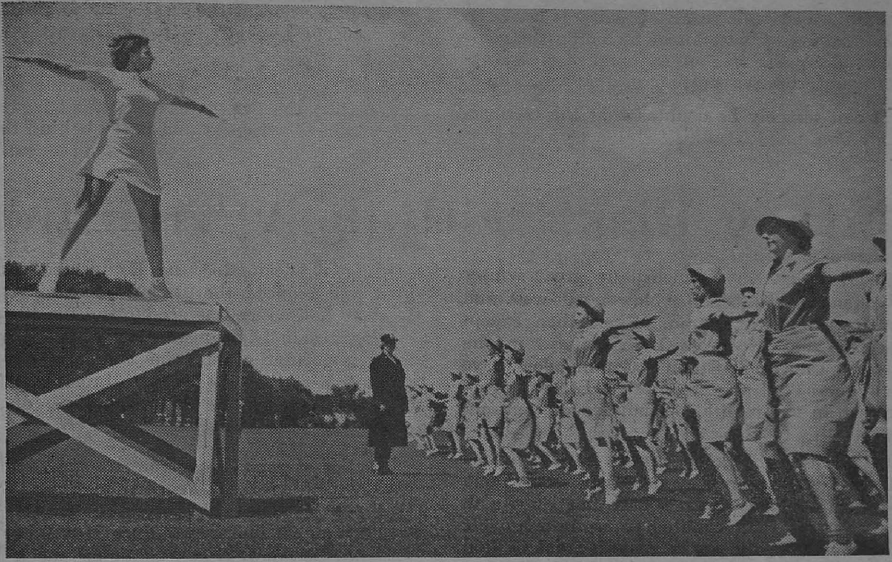
Simultaneously with rail development, there has also been an extension of road and air communications. Out of an approximate total of 3,000 km. of roads constructed under the Republic, 735 km. were completed during 1940, and the necessary credits were provided in the 1941 Budget for the road between Adrianople (Edirne) and Kirklareli to be thoroughly repaired and modernized.

The last section of the road from Trabzen through Erzurum to the Persian frontier and a motor highway between Istanbul and Ankara is scheduled for completion soon, and another road from Bitlis to Kurkaban is under construction. There is also a project for the construction of an asphalted road from Silifke via Mersin and Tarsus to Ulukisla. Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir and Adana are already linked up by an air service and a new service is contemplated to Elaziz where a modern aerodrome has been opened.

Italians' Attitude

"If the British win, we are losers; but if the Germans win, we are lost".

—*A popular saying in Italy.*



THE U.S. WOMEN'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS TRAINS TECHNICAL EXPERTS FOR WAR SERVICE.—Under the watchful eye of the Physical Director, and led by one of their own number on the platform, a group of W.A.A.C.s do their setting up exercises, part of the daily routine at the training centre.—U.S. Office of War Information photo.

Russian Armies' Unimpeded Progress

AFTER nearly three months of winter operations and three months of continuous progress, when a good deal of expert opinion considered that at least a pause for reorganization would be necessary, the Red Army is still advancing, writes the *Times*.

More than that, it is ruthlessly penetrating vital points in the enemy's array and on his communication. One road and rail centre after another is being captured. Strongly fortified places which serve as supply centres and pivots for the enemy's manœuvre are being enveloped speedily and subdued.

Not merely is the defence being beaten down, fresh threats of encirclement on a pattern which has already produced brilliant victories are taking form. Russian fighting qualities and physical endurance, great though they be, would have been powerless to carry out a tithe of what has been accomplished without the support of the administrative machinery which has created astonishment by the results it is consistently obtaining.

SITUATION IMPROVED

Though the Russians are rapidly stretching their communications and getting farther from their original base, their situation has in some respects improved, because railways which were previously blocked at Kastornaya, Voronezh, Svoboda and Stalingrad are clear and in all probability largely restored by now. By road transport guns, ammunition and tanks, with their elaborate heavy accessories on wheels, are going up to the front through the snows. And snows are serving the Red Army well for lighter supplies because it had provided large numbers of sleighs.

The enemy on the other hand is evidently experiencing great difficulties with his communications. Only a short time ago, it was being pointed out how great was his advantage in the possession of the rail network of the Donetz basin. That has gone now or almost gone and the Russians are employing the network to threaten encirclement of the Germans in the eastern part of the basin.

SHORTENING OF THE FRONT

Since the opening of the Russian offensive and the envelopment of the German Sixth Army in front of Stalingrad, the enemy has never been able to concentrate an adequate reserve and so never has come within sight of stabilizing the front. The shortening of the front which is already very considerable has

still not yielded the reserve because it has been accompanied by vast losses including the complete disappearance of a number of formations and the evisceration of many others.

It can scarcely be doubted that the German High Command is anxious to shorten the line still further and at the same time to disengage its menaced forces from the Russian clutches.

As matters stand at present it looks as though the Germans will not succeed in evacuating the Donetz basin without leaving a long train of prisoners and booty behind them.

Taking Risks with their Eyes open

THE Red Army launched its great winter offensive by a double blow north-west and south-west of Stalingrad. Since then except for the small Novorossisk bridgehead in the western Caucasus, Stalin's Commanders have reconquered all the territory Hitler's army overran in five months of summer and autumn warfare.

In addition the Soviet armies have advanced at point after point beyond that limit and smashed into the 1941 winter line on which the Germans had counted as an impregnable bastion. Now the entire eastern front is fluid again. In those three months the Red Army has destroyed or captured a large quantity of enemy material.

These captures as I have seen with my own eyes are being immediately turned against the enemy and are helping vastly to solve Russia's problem of bringing up supplies over lengthening lines of communication. Stalin's offensive has almost annihilated the Rumanian contingent, decimated the Hungarian contingent and reduced the Italian contingent at least by half as well as accounting for 40 to 50 crack German Divisions. Lastly, perhaps the most important of all, the Russians have in the words of the *Red Star* brought about "serious changes in the psychology of the entire German Army."

Tactics of double envelopment and annihilation are becoming a decisive method of the Red Army. They have been employed successfully again and again since November 19. Though the German communiques speak self-pityingly of "overwhelmingly superior Bolshevik forces," in fact these encircling movements have been carried out by forces markedly inferior in numbers to those they have trapped. This naturally meant taking risks but the Soviet Commanders rightly realized that a successful offensive warfare must involve taking risks and that the only foolish risk is one which you take with your eyes shut.

Guerilla Warfare on Assam-Burma Border

LAST May the Japanese advance through Burma was halted at the Assam-Burma border, but although that area has provided no headline news, fighting has never ceased. Guerilla activity has been continuous.

This borderland is wild and mountainous, covered with forest, and traversed by only a few tracks. The inhabitants are scattered hill tribes who live by hunting and primitive agriculture. They still use bows and arrows—and they use them against the Japanese, against whom their chieftains have declared war.

More important than these primitive allies are the regular guerilla expeditions of British and Indian troops which raid into Japanese-occupied territory, seeking out the enemy, destroying military installations, and obtaining valuable information. There is a continuous "screen" of guerillas, practically living on the land, and operating for long periods at a time deep in enemy-occupied territory. Through the screen go out fighting and reconnaissance patrols, sometimes consisting of as few as one officer and half a dozen men, equipped with automatic weapons and as much in the way of supplies as can be carried by two or three mules. Often larger columns with more mule transport, even carrying light artillery, go out.

A PATROL'S ORDEAL

A typical patrol was that which set out recently from a small village. For days it struggled along the almost impassable, rough gravel tracks of the dense hill country, plagued by mosquitoes and other insects, and always in peril of deadly ambush. At last it arrived at the crest of a ridge, where it was decided to lie up for a while as three of the men, who for days had been fighting against severe malaria obviously were incapable of proceeding further for some time.

From this ridge one officer and two men set out to investigate reports concerning Japanese activities in a village 25 miles away. This involved crossing a river, and as so often happens in this country, where a stream suddenly becomes a wide river and the river

turns into a roaring torrent, the task proved to be even more difficult than had been anticipated. First, a man had to risk his life in swimming the flooded river with a rope. Then a wire bridge, capable of bearing the one mule with the detachment, had to be improvised. This completed, the detachment cautiously approached the village, only to find that the Japanese had evacuated some hours earlier, having removed every scrap of food the villagers possessed, wantonly killing their cattle, and looting their houses.

BETTER LUCK

Having seen this grim evidence of the enemy's visit, the detachment made its way back to the ridge, rejoined the remainder of the patrol and set out for another village, where it was understood that there were 100 Japanese troops, a number far in excess of that of the patrol. A number of prisoners were captured and brought back for interrogation. After nearly three weeks the patrol returned across the border of India, having gained most valuable information.

The guerilla tactics are making the Japanese occupiers uneasy. Moreover the accurate, detailed information gained by the patrols is contributing to the success of the air offensive over Burma, for the air forces of the United Nations are enabled to pick out the most valuable, and even the most secret, military objectives.

Guadalcanal—A Review

THE complete elimination of Japanese troops from Guadalcanal, which was announced on February 10, recalls the fierce fighting which has taken place in that area.

The United States marines, under Major-General Alexander A. Vandergrift, first established beach-heads at Guadalcanal on August 7, 1942, with the support of naval guns and planes. The next day they captured a Japanese jungle airfield which was renamed Henderson Field and expanded into a large airport, enabling the Americans air forces to dominate the southern Solomons.

The Japanese attempted to reinforce Guadalcanal in the August 8 and 9 battle of Savo Island, in which they landed a thousand crack troops, 700 of which were wiped out by August 21. On August 25, the American Naval and air forces repelled a strong enemy reconnaissance fleet in the eastern Solomons.

Three thousand Japanese troops stormed the ridge west of Henderson Field with heavy sea and air support from September 12 to 14, an action in which half of the Japanese forces were killed and the rest captured.

In the battle of Cape Esperance on October 11 and 12, a navy task force sank a Japanese heavy cruiser and four destroyers. The following day the United States Army landed reinforcements at Guadalcanal.

BATTLE OF SANTA CRUZ

In the battle of Santa Cruz on October 26, the Japanese sank the United States aircraft-carrier *Hornet* and the destroyer *Porter*, while suffering heavy damage to two carriers, one battleship and other vessels.

November 13 to 15 marked the great Japanese sea disaster off Guadalcanal, in which a huge invasion fleet was smashed and turned back by United States surface and aerial forces. Twenty-eight Japanese ships were sunk, including 16 warships and 10 more were damaged. On November 30, the Japanese lost nine ships and thousands of soldiers in a night battle north of Guadalcanal during a futile attempt to land reinforcements.

On January 6, 1943, United States forces opened the Guadalcanal land offensive, seizing strategic heights around Henderson Field.

On January 21, the United States marines were given a respite after five months of heavy fighting and were replaced by United States Army troops under Major-General Alexander Patch, who continued the offensive, capturing Japanese Headquarters at Kokumbona on January 25.

On February 2, the Navy Department said that increased Japanese sea and air activity indicated a "major effort to regain control of the entire Solomons area." On February 6, United States Army troops outflanked the Japanese centre of operations at Cape Esperance and captured Titi.

On February 10, General Patch announced, "There is no longer any vestige of Japanese organized forces on Guadalcanal".

THE BEST WAY

He was taking the customary test for the Home Guard service, when the instructor asked: "What is the best way to immobilize your car?" "Let my wife drive it," came the immediate reply.

Research for Larger Food Supplies

Grants for Sowing Better Rice

SEVERAL schemes to help to increase India's food supplies were financed in 1941–42 by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, whose report for the year has just been published. In Madras, Bengal, the United Provinces and Orissa grants were made for the multiplication and distribution of improved varieties of rice yielding about 10 to 20 per cent more than local varieties, and it is expected 15 lakhs of acres will be sown with them by 1944. To reduce the loss of food grains in storage a bulletin on the pests of stored grains was put in hand, and studies of the storage pests and diseases of jower, the poor man's food, were sanctioned at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute and regional stations in Madras, the Punjab, the Central Provinces, Bihar and Hyderabad. The Council also initiated co-ordinated research on pulses and millets at various centres.

Research on fruit preservation led to the production of a satisfactory lemon-barley water, the use of orange peal as a candied product and the preparation of mango juices. In the Baluchistan fruit canning and preserving laboratory, canning was done on a large scale and methods evolved for drying apricots, peaches and tomatoes.

A number of village projects were sanctioned. These aim at getting all the cultivators in a village to keep improved methods of farming all round.

At the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology successful efforts were made to produce canewax and golden syrup. Golden syrup is needed for the services and cane wax replaces imported waxes in leather and furniture polishes.

Methods to check the damage to hides and skins by ticks and warble flies, were studied at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute and in Bombay. Results obtained in the control of warbles with derris dressing led the Council to sanction funds for the control of warbles on a field scale in the Punjab. Since the fall of Malaya and Java, imports of derris root have ceased and the possibilities of growing derris in the humid regions of India are being studied.

To improve the milk supply of towns and cities the Council considered a scheme to tackle the problems of production, transport and processing. The Council indicated how provincial and State Governments might check the adulteration of ghee. Proposals for colouring vanaspati are being considered.

Efforts have been made to discover suitable methods of preserving fish, other than canning and cold storage, and improved methods of producing honey. A central Bee-Keeping Research Station at Jeolikote (U.P.), with a sub-station at Izatnagar, was sanctioned.

To produce white and pure wool the Council has financed sheep breeding schemes in Madras, Bombay, the Punjab, Bihar, Mysore, Kashmir and Baluchistan. At the laboratories attached to some of these farms fleeces are analysed for fibre length, diameter, lustre, etc., on the basis of which culling and selection for further breeding are done. The yield of farm animals has been raised to 2 to 6 lb. per animal as against 0·5 to 1·5 lb. per village sheep.

Research on animal nutrition in Madras, Bengal, the United Provinces, Bihar, the Punjab and at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute has given useful information which will lead to the computation of economically balanced rations for village cattle.

Veterinary Investigation Officers of the Council study animal diseases and pests throughout India. Teams of officers have been appointed in several provinces and States to work on poultry diseases and to save the poultry and egg industry for epidemics.

GUARDING INDIAN AIRFIELDS

SOUTH INDIAN VILLAGERS HELP MILITARY

South Indian villagers have formed their own Home Guard to assist in defending an important aerodrome in their area. They do the work quite voluntarily, have their own roster of guards, and each night they take on the job of patrolling the aerodrome and its immediate area.

So keen are they, and quick on the job, that the authorities have every confidence in their work and, like the Home Guards in Britain, they have been able to relieve trained troops for other duties.

When the aerodrome first began to function, the local people soon realised that it was for their defence, and that it was a defence for which they had helped to pay.

So they began to look upon it as their own, and several of the chief villagers approached the Forces there with a view to assisting them in their work.

During the day these men have a hard life, farming their land, and producing the much needed crops. But at night, instead of resting by the fire, and smoking a well earned pipe, they go on guard, and do their bit towards defeating the Japanese.

THE CROSS OF LORRAINE.—A squadron of the Fighting French fly Spitfires in the formation of The Cross of Lorraine *their emblem.*

Diary of the War

ENGLAND AND GERMANY

26th Feb.—The Royal Air Force raided Wilhelmshaven again. Bombs were also dropped on Western Germany.

The Polish Government (now exiled in Britain) in a statement on Polish-Russian relations stated that the Polish Government "repudiates most definitely malicious propaganda which accuses Poland of indirect or direct inimical tendencies towards Soviet Russia."

In his proclamation to the Nazi Party, Hitler stated: "We shall break and smash the Jewish world coalition and mankind struggling for its freedom will win the final victory in this struggle . . . This struggle will not end as our enemies plan with the annihilation of the Aryan part of humanity, but with the extinction of Jewry in Europe."

27th Feb.—There was a short and sharp raid on a south-west coastal town. Two raiders were destroyed off the coast.

There was another raid on Wilhelmshaven and Nuremberg was heavily bombed.

28th Feb.—Cologne was raided by the Royal Air Force. Objectives in Western Germany were also bombed. Three attacks were made on the docks at Dunkirk. A German airfield in Cherbourg Peninsula was bombed.

A "big clean up" took place in Berlin in which more than 1,000 persons, including many women, were arrested on charges of grumbling or spreading doubts of German victory.

Britain's own Army Week was launched by Sir James Grigg, War Secretary.

1st Mar.—The Royal Air Force attacked the U-boat base at Saint Nazaire. Bombs were also dropped on Western Germany.

2nd Mar.—The Royal Air Force attacked targets in North France and Belgium. Berlin was raided and objectives in Western Germany were also bombed.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

26th Feb.—Col. Fox, United States Secretary for the Navy, said that the Germans were building submarines "much faster than we are sinking them."

A former member of the Canadian Legation at Washington, Rear-Admiral V. G. Brodeur,

said in Quebec that the Germans might concentrate as many as 500 or 600 submarines round Halifax and Newfoundland next summer to harass Allied convoys.

Rear-Admiral Emory S. Land, Chairman of the United States Maritime Commission, stated that United States, Great Britain and Canada were constructing ships to combat the submarine menace to the limits of their ability.

Mr. A. J. Sabath, United States Congress representative, said: " President Roosevelt is going to be nominated by acclamation of the Democratic National Convention and he is going to be elected (President for a fourth term) by an overwhelming majority. That is the will of the people and it will prevail."

27th Feb.—Mr. Donald Nelson, War Production Chief, said that it would be possible to equip armed forces totalling 11 millions which was the goal set for the end of 1943.

28th Feb.—Admiral Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Pacific fleet, said that American naval might in the Pacific was ready to undertake a drive for positions from which Japanese industrial centres could be brought under direct and devastating attack.

1st Mar.—Mr. Sumner Welles, Under Secretary of State, said that representatives of all the United Nations would be invited to the proposed conference on post-war food problems to be held in the United States.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

26th Feb.—Japanese bombers again attacked an American air base in Assam. Nine Japanese aircraft were destroyed. Allied troops landed in Myebon village near Akyab and destroyed objectives. The Royal Air Force attacked the Thazi railway junction in Central Burma.

27th Feb.—The Royal Air Force attacked Myohaung, the Japanese-occupied village in the Akyab district. Objectives in the Myittha Valley were also attacked.

28th Feb.—The Royal Air Force attacked the Japanese-occupied village of Minbya. Rathedaung was also attacked.

The Royal Air Force attacked Japanese transport in various parts of Burma, ranging from Mawlu in the Katha district down to Ramree Island of the Arakan coast.

1st Mar.—The Japanese on the Burma Road advanced northward along the west bank of the river Salween, headed for Lushi.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

26th Feb.—The Axis troops evacuated Kasserine. A fresh enemy attack near Ousseltia was repulsed. The Berlin Radio admitted that the German and Italian forces had fallen back in Tunisia. Reuter's special correspondent described it as a " resounding Allied victory."

The Royal Air Force attacked an Axis convoy north of Trapani in Sicily. A large supply ship was sunk.

27th Feb.—Naples and Crotone were raided. Allied troops advanced in Tunisia and gained complete control of the Kasserine Pass. All Axis troops retired to Gafsa.

The German News Agency reported that the Eighth Army was preparing to attack.

28th Feb.—American troops entered Kasserine. Enemy attacks were repulsed in the areas of Jebel Mansour, Bon Arada and Medjez el Bah.

The Eighth Army pierced the defences of the Mareth Line at several places.

Syracuse was attacked by Allied bombers. Railway yards and the seaplane base were damaged.

1st Mar.—The German Radio disclosed that Von Ribbentrop, German Foreign Minister, was in Rome on Hitler's orders from February 24 to 28 when a personal message from Hitler was handed to Mussolini. German propaganda compared these talks to the Casablanca Conference.

Count Ciano, Ambassador to the Vatican, was received by His Holiness the Pope.

Allied troops retook Feriana. The Germans retreated in Central Tunisia. The Eighth Army patrols were in contact with the enemy.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

26th Feb.—The Russians were 160 miles from Kiev. A new important advance was made west of Rostov. Three important heights were captured. A surprise attack was launched on the Moscow front.

27th Feb.—The Russians captured more German strong points on the highway leading to Kiev and the Dineper river. The battle for Orel neared climax. Powerful German counter-attacks were held in the heart of the Donetz Basin.

28th Feb.—The Russian tanks broke into the main German line south of Lake Ladoga. Russian and German tanks were locked in a grim struggle in the streets of an important town in Western Donbas.

The Red Army spearheads thrust deeper into the Ukraine, west of Kharkov, on the road to Poltava and Kiev. The Nazis put up a desperate defence of Orel.

1st Mar.—Moscow announced the start of a new Russian offensive against Hitler's Sixteenth Army on the north-west front. The new drive was under the command of Marshal Timoshenko.

Soviet offensive slowed down along the southern front after three months' uninterrupted success.

2nd Mar.—Marshal Timoshenko's forces smashed through the German Demyansk fortress south of Lake Ilmen. Over 40 German planes were captured.

The Russians launched a new offensive against the sector of the front at Lake Ladoga east of Leningrad.

Mussolini, in a long Order of the Day, addressed to the Eighth Italian Army in Russia admitted that seven divisions were "spent to the point of sacrifice."

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

26th Feb.—An air raid alert was sounded in Basle as well as Berne.

28th Feb.—Britain launched a protest about the building in Sweden of small boats for Germany.

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SHIPPING

28th Feb.—Four American destroyers were launched at Kearny (New Jersey).

Aircraft carrier *Monterey* was launched in Camden (New Jersey).

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

27th Feb.—The Chinese Foreign office protested to Vichy against the Japanese occupation of Kwangchowwan, French-leased territory in South China.

28th Feb.—The German Radio announced that civil mobilization had been ordered of all Greeks between the ages of 16 and 45 in the German-occupied part of Greece.

The Prague Radio stated that German measures for total mobilization were to be applied in the Czech Protectorate as in Germany.

The Inter-Allied Information Committee published statistics of German terror in nine occupied countries. Among others, 744,000 were executed in Yugoslavia.

The Reich Commissar for Eastern territories ordered the general mobilization of men of the three Baltic countries.

1st Mar.—Seventeen Norwegians, accused of sabotage, were executed.

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THE FAR EAST

26th Feb.—Allied heavy bombers scored a direct hit on a 10,000-ton freighter and damaged two Japanese naval vessels in Rabaul. Lae also was raided.

27th Feb.—President Roosevelt sent a cable to General MacArthur congratulating him on the success of his campaigns in the south-west Pacific.

NOTICE

As Thursday, when we usually go to press, is a holiday on account of Mahasivaratri, items and comments up to Wednesday (March 3) morning only are included in this issue.

United States bombers attacked Japanese positions at Kiska.

Marshal Chiang-Kai-Shek broadcast an appeal to the people and armed forces of Siam to rise against the Japanese, reiterating that China had no territorial ambition in Siam.

28th Feb.—According to the Independent French Agency, Japan had decided to mobilize all young men in the "southern regions" under her control, including Burma, Malaya, Sumatra, Java and Borneo.

Colonel Frank Knox, United States Secretary of Navy, disclosed that negotiations were proceeding with New Zealand over an air base in the Pacific on the Island of Upolu in the Samoa area—one of the stepping stones in the Pacific strategy.

American bombers set fire to a Japanese transport and corvette in an attack on Japanese shipping in the Central Solomons. The Japanese retreated in Wan and Mubo in New Guinea.

A sharp defeat was inflicted on the Japanese who crossed the Ching river west of Nanchang.

1st Mar.—General MacArthur issued a warning that the Japanese were reinforcing their troops north of Australia. Reuter's special correspondent stated: "Japan is now poised to strike in what may prove to be an all-out move against Allied positions in south-west Pacific."

Mr. Ford, Australian Army Minister, commenting on General MacArthur's warning, said: "We must make the most of the breathing space we are receiving."

The *New York Times* said that a major offensive against Japan was imminent.

2nd Mar.—A Dutch submarine sank a fully laden 14,000-ton Japanese supply ship in the Straits of Malacca.

A Japanese convoy of 14 ships was sighted heading for New Guinea. Japanese shipping was bombed in the harbour on Waingapoe Island off Soemba, west of Dutch Timor.

Grow More Food—in Your Gardens!

Fruit Vegetables

CHILLIES

Capsicum spp. Family Solanaccæ; *Milagai*, Tam.; *Packcha Marapakaya*, Tel.; *Mulaku*, Mal.

Description.—There are many varieties of Capsicums cultivated as condiments and vegetables. Only two of the common ones are mentioned here.

(1) Green chilli—*Capsicum annum Var. longum* A small shrubby plant; fruits with thick fleshy pericarp.

(2) Bullnose chilli or Bell pepper—*C. annum var. grossum.* A small plant 1–2 feet high with bigger leaves; fruits large, non-pungent, with thick fleshy pericarp. The flesh of the fruit is sweet and used in salads or for stuffing with meat.

Propagation.—Seeds may be bought from seed-merchants, or obtained from selected mature fruits which can be bought in the market.

Cultivation.—Seeds must be sown just below the surface in well-prepared nursery beds, or in boxes or large flower pots, and covered with fine soil. When the seedlings are about 5–6 weeks old, they are transplanted into beds, in rows about 2 feet apart, and spaced about 1½ feet in the rows. Rich well-tilled soil is best for chillies; the soil should also be manured with humus, well-rotted cattle manure and liquid manure. Fruiting starts in 3–4 months, and usually continues for a number of months.

Season for cultivation.—Green chilli—April to June, both on the plains and hills.

"Bell Pepper"—August to September on the plains, and April to May on the hills.

Uses.—Green chillies are picked in either the green or red stage and used for seasoning and side-dishes with curries. They can also be soaked in curds to which has been added some salt, and then dried in the sun; so that they can be kept for a number of days, to be fried in oil and used with rice and curry.

Bell Pepper is used as a vegetable—for making curries, for pickling, for stuffing with meat or fish; or it is even chopped up and used in salads and for sandwiches.

General Analysis.—Green chilli: water 82·8 per cent; mineral 1·0 per cent; protein 2·9 per cent; fat 0·6 per cent; fibre 6·8 per cent; carbohydrate 6·1 per cent; calories per lb. 200; calcium 0·05 per cent; magnesium 0·036 per cent; phosphorus 0·161 per cent; iron ·002 per cent; Vitamin A—I.U. per 100 gm. 8,000; Vitamin B—I.U. per 100 gm. 41; Vitamin C—mgm. per 100 gm. 162·5.

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